



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

News Release

May 26, 2005

Two women nabbed by ICE for conspiring to import drugs into the U.S.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested United States citizens Carmen Rivera, 29, and Lee Collazo, 24, here yesterday for their alleged involvement in a conspiracy to import more than seven kilograms of heroin and five kilograms of cocaine into the United States in violation of Title 21, United States Code (USC), Section 846.

Rivera and Collazo were arrested at their respective residences at Laguna View Condominium in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico after an ICE investigation linked them to the April 3, 2006 seizure of more than 12 kilos of cocaine and heroin in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

“The importation of illegal narcotics into the United States is a very serious crime,” said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. “In our efforts to keep drugs off the streets of Puerto Rico, we will continue using all of our resources to identify and dismantle drug trafficking organizations that operate within our jurisdiction.”

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District Court of Puerto Rico has accepted the case for prosecution. Rivera and Collazo are in federal custody and had their initial appearance before a U.S. magistrate judge yesterday. They were transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico where they await outcome of their cases.

The public is reminded that a criminal complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is innocent and is entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.